

I find your plan to implement the "broadcast flag" very troubling.

It pretty much renders useless the current hardware that many of us have bought. Us "early adopters" bought into the system you created, and now you want to punish us. That's not a good way to roll out a new service.

But beyond that, it limits what we can do with digital media. Why is it necessary to render digital recorders less useful than a VCR? Throughout history, existing media companies have resisted new technologies. The TV and movie industries resisted the VCR, yet now they make more money on video rentals than they would have ever lost from VCR users.

The real problem with the broadcast flag is that it hurts the average consumer, but does nothing to protect the industry from piracy. Pirates will still be able to make copies of the broadcast programs and sell them. If anything, they'll have a bigger market, because the home user won't be able to record the shows to watch them later.

In summary, leaving out the broadcast flag will maintain the status quo. Consumers will be able to record and watch shows. Broadcasters and media companies will still be successful making money, and will likely find new revenues with the new technology.

Thanks,
Craig M. Buchek